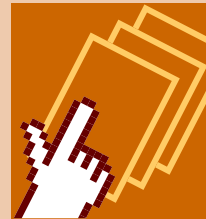


Finding SIPP Information



This section briefly describes sources of information about SIPP and how to obtain them.

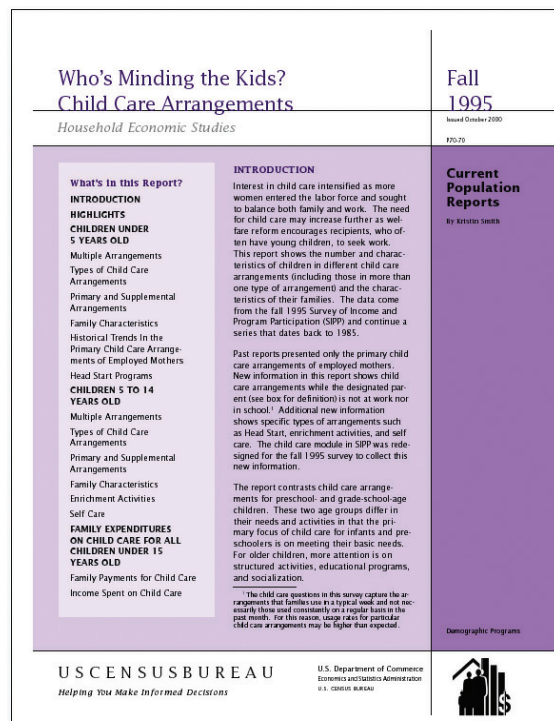
- *Published Estimates from SIPP*
- *SIPP Public Use Microdata Files*
- *Sources for Obtaining SIPP Microdata*
 - Online Data Access Tools*
 - U.S. Census Bureau*
 - ICPSR*
- *Other Sources of Info About SIPP*
 - SIPP Quality Profile*
 - SIPP Users' Guide*
 - SIPP Working Papers*
 - SIPP Bibliography*
 - SIPP Listserv*

Published Estimates from SIPP

The primary source for SIPP published estimates is the Census Bureau's P-70 series of publications. Published estimates are useful because they:

- Are readily available
- Provide a useful cross-check for closely related estimates prepared by analysts
- Are based on the Census Bureau's internal files and thus have not been subjected to topcoding and other data-suppression techniques designed to protect confidentiality

Users will find an updated list of P-70 series reports at the SIPP Web site (<http://www.sipp.census.gov/sipp>). They can obtain copies of these reports from the U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402.




SIPP Public Use Microdata Files

SIPP public use microdata are available in the following types of files:

- Core wave files
- Topical module files
- Full and partial panel files

Analysts should choose files on the basis of their particular application.

Core wave files were designed for cross-sectional analyses. They are in person-month format and contain—for every person who was a SIPP household member for at least 1 month of the 4-month reference period—one record for each month of the reference period the person was in-sample. 

Topical module files are issued in person-record format; there is one record for each person who was a member of a SIPP household at the time of the interview for that wave.

SIPP *tip*

The core wave files are the only source of monthly cross-sectional weights. When analysts use data from the full panel files for cross-sectional analyses, they must merge weights from the core wave files.

In the pre-1996 panels, the month that determined the universe for the topical module files was the interview month. In the 1996 Panel, that month was changed to month 4 of the reference period.

Full panel files contain all data from the core wave files for every person who was a member of the SIPP sample at any time during the life of that panel. To date, the full panel files have been issued in a format that contains one record for each sample member.

Because of the 4-year duration of the 1996 Panel, the Census Bureau is modifying its procedures for releasing information for the 1996 full panel file.

Sources for Obtaining SIPP Microdata

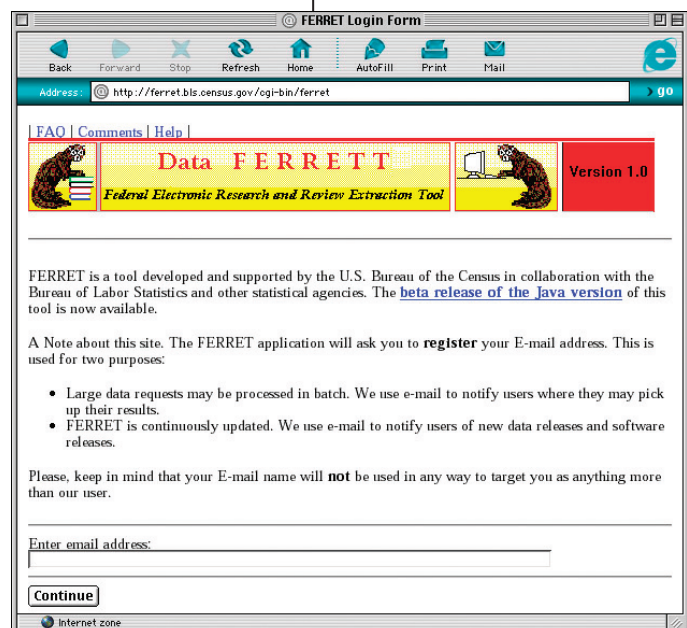
Online Data Access Tools

For simple exploratory work, users can take advantage of two data access tools available through the SIPP Web site.

FERRET. SIPP data are available online for the 1992 and 1993 longitudinal panels, as well as for most core wave and topical module files for the 1996 Panel, through the Federal Electronic Research Review and Extraction Tool (FERRET). Users can manipulate these data files online.

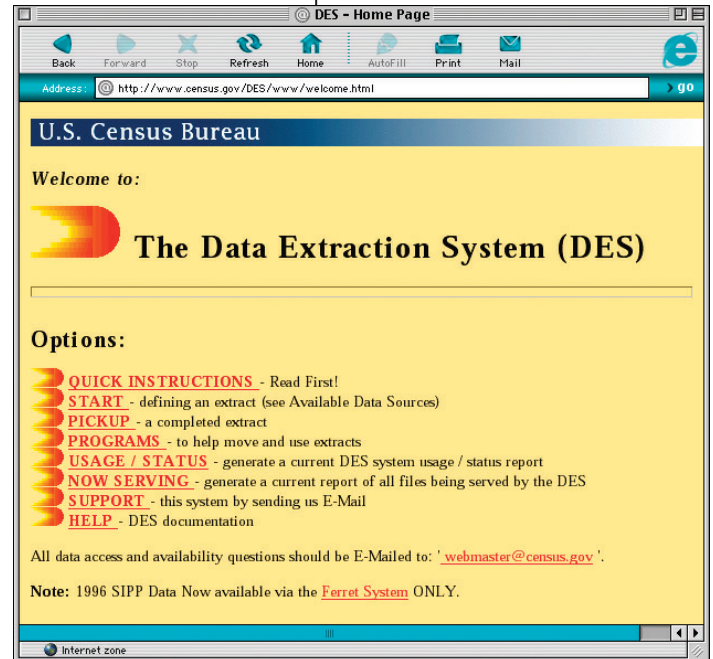
FERRET allows SIPP users to:

- Quickly locate current and historical information
- Get tabulations for specific information
- Make comparisons among different data sets
- Create simple tables
- Download large amounts of data to desktop and larger computers for custom reports



Surveys-on-Call. SIPP data can be extracted from the 1988–1993 longitudinal panels and for wave and topical module files for the 1990–1993 Panels through Surveys-on-Call, which is part of the Data Extraction System.

Users can define the extracts of variables they are interested in, then download them to their own computers for analysis. Users are unable to perform analyses online with Surveys-on-Call.



U.S. Census Bureau

Orders for SIPP data files may be placed in several ways:

- Via the Internet at the U.S. Census Bureau Web site (all CD-ROMs and other selected products only); <http://www.sipp.census.gov/sipp>
- Via fax to the Census Bureau's toll-free number, 888-249-7295 (orders only)
- Via telephone to Census Bureau Customer Services staff at 301-457-4100

All public use microdata files can be obtained on magnetic media or CD-ROM directly from the Census Bureau.

When customers receive their data files from the Census Bureau, they should immediately make sure that they have received the correct files and the corresponding documentation. It is especially important to verify orders for customized files, such as one-off tape to CD-ROM copies. Unlike stock items, these files are prepared individually with each order. **tip**

SIPP *tip*

Customers who order one-off CD-ROM copies for any tape files should be aware that they contain no software, are in ASCII format only, take about 1 to 2 weeks to complete, and are fragile and easily damaged.

The technical documentation for SIPP public use data files includes the following major items:

- **A data dictionary**—contains variable metadata that provide all information relevant to variables that appear in the SIPP public use microdata files:
 - Variable name and description
 - Concept label
 - Data type
 - Suggested weight variable, when applicable
 - Descriptions of all possible values
 - Summary that identifies all edits, recodes, and imputations for each variable
 - Other applicable data
- **Source and accuracy statement**—contains detailed information about weights and about the computation of standard errors
- **Questionnaire**—for the 1996 Panel, includes questionnaire screens and program code used to collect the information contained in the microdata file; for earlier panels, includes a copy of the paper questionnaire
- **User Notes**—contain corrections to the data dictionaries, announcements of errors found in the public use data files after their release, and recommended corrections for those data errors
- **Abstract**—includes the type of file, a description of the universe and the file contents, information about geographic coverage, and a technical description of the file
- **Glossary**—list of selected terms and their definitions

SURVEY OF INCOME AND PROGRAM PARTICIPATION,
1996 PANEL WAVE 1 TOPICAL MODULE DATA DICTIONARY

```

DATA          SIZE  BEGIN
D  SSUSEQ      5      1
T  SU: Sequence Number of Sample Unit - Primary
    Sort Key
U  All persons
V    1:50000 .Sequence Number

D  SSUID      12      6
T  SU: Sample Unit Identifier
    Sample Unit identifier This identifier is
    created by scrambling together the PSU,
    Segment, Serial, Serial Suffix of the
    original sample address. It may be used
    in matching sample units from different
    waves.
U  All persons
V  000000000000:999999999999 .Scrambled Id

D  SPANEL      4      18
T  SU: Sample Code - Indicated Panel Year
U  All persons
V

```


The U.S. Census Bureau includes technical documentation with each CD-ROM order. The Census Bureau is currently producing Adobe Acrobat PDF files of the technical documentation. These files are then included with the ASCII microdata files on CD-ROMs. The Census Bureau also posts the PDF files on its Web site.

If PDF files of the technical documentation are not yet available for requested CD-ROM data files, customers should be receiving print copies of the technical documentation.

Customers who order SIPP data files on tape rather than on CD-ROMs should check the Census Bureau Web site for posted documentation. If that information is not yet posted, customers may order print copies of appropriate technical documentation for a fee.

Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR)

An analyst who is affiliated with an ICPSR-member institution can obtain all SIPP microdata from that source. The analyst should contact the ICPSR representative at his or her institution.

Other Sources of Information About SIPP

SIPP Quality Profile

The *SIPP Quality Profile*, 3rd edition, documents data-quality issues related to SIPP. It summarizes what is known about the sources and magnitude of errors in estimates from SIPP. Although the report covers both sampling and nonsampling errors, primary emphasis is placed on nonsampling errors.



The *Quality Profile* addresses errors associated with survey operations such as the following:

- Frame design and maintenance
- Sample selection
- Data collection
- Data processing
- Estimation (weighting)
- Data dissemination

The report draws on a large body of literature and provides references for readers who need more detailed information.

The *SIPP Quality Profile* can be accessed in an Adobe Acrobat PDF file at the SIPP Web site (<http://www.sipp.census.gov/sipp>).

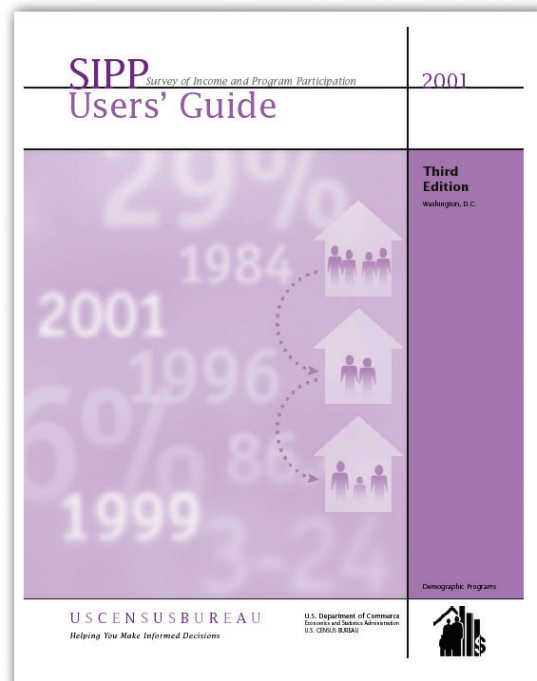
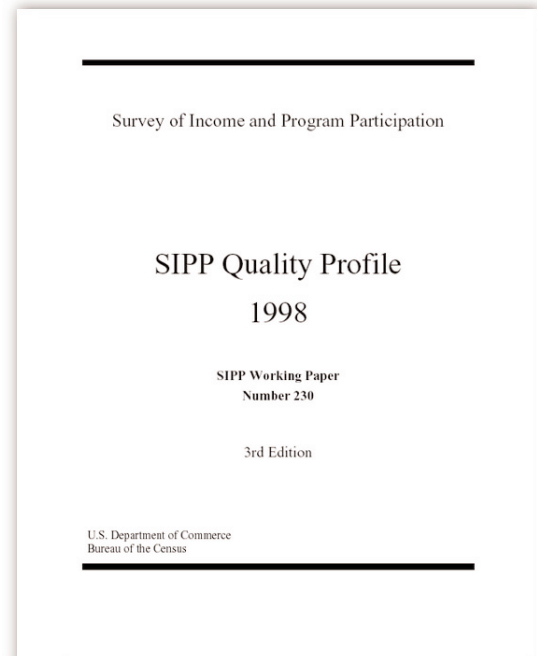
SIPP Users' Guide

The *SIPP Users' Guide*, 3rd edition, contains a general overview of the survey and files as well as chapters on survey design and content, data editing and imputation, structure and use of cross-sectional and longitudinal files, linking of waves, weighting, and sampling and nonsampling errors.

Numerous tables and examples of SAS and FORTRAN code are provided to help SIPP users perform common analytic tasks. [Link to an example of suggested code.](#)

Appendixes contain a crosswalk between the 1996 and 1993 core wave variable names, a discussion of topcoding, information on the computation of SIPP sample weights, a list of acronyms and their definitions, a glossary, and references.

The *SIPP Users' Guide* is available at the SIPP Web site (<http://www.sipp.census.gov/sipp>).



SIPP Working Papers

The Census Bureau publishes a series of working papers written by Census Bureau and outside analysts. The series includes research papers based on SIPP data or related to the SIPP program.

Users can access SIPP working papers at the SIPP Web site (<http://www.sipp.census.gov/sipp>), or they can order them from the Customer Services Branch, Administrative and Customer Services Division, at 301- 457-4100.

SIPP Bibliography

A bibliography of works related to SIPP is available online from the SIPP Web site (<http://www.sipp.census.gov/sipp>). This relatively comprehensive bibliography contains nearly 2,000 references for journal articles, research papers, and working papers that use SIPP data or discuss the SIPP survey.

SIPP Listserv

Users may subscribe at the SIPP Web site to sipp-users, a listserv for SIPP Users Group members (<http://www.sipp.census.gov/sipp>). List members share new reports and studies, programming help, and research ideas.